

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

|                              |   |                              |
|------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| In re Patent Application of: | ) |                              |
|                              | ) |                              |
| J. Donald HILL <u>et al.</u> | ) | Examiner: Glenn K. DAWSON    |
|                              | ) |                              |
| Application No.: 10/715,826  | ) | Group Art Unit: 3731         |
|                              | ) |                              |
| Filed: November 19, 2003     | ) | <b>Confirmation No. 3645</b> |
|                              | ) |                              |
| For: METHODS, SYSTEMS, AND   | ) |                              |
| APPARATUS FOR PERFORMING     | ) |                              |
| MINIMALLY INVASIVE           | ) |                              |
| CORONARY ARTERY BYPASS       | ) |                              |
| GRAFT SURGERY                | ) |                              |

**MAIL STOP AF**

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RESPONSIVE AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

In response to the Office Action, of which Applicants were notified by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office ("PTO") on November 19, 2007, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the above-captioned patent application in view of the following:

**Amendment to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Request for Reconsideration** begins on page 5 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 6 of this paper.

**Conclusion** begins on page 9 of this paper.